

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 136045

67

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01

TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO GHANAIAI NOTE ON COCOA AGREEMENT

REF: ACCRA 3449

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A DEPARTMENTAL NOTE SENT TO THE EMBASSY OF GHANA IN WASHINGTON, 6/11/75, IN RESPONSE TO A NOTE DATED MAY 8, 1975. THE GHANAIAI NOTE ESSENTIALLY COVERED THE SAME POINTS IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF AIDE MEMOIRE DESCRIBED IN REFTEL.

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PAGE 02 STATE 136045

2. BEGIN QUOTE. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE REFERS TO NOTE NO. E-14 OF THE EMBASSY OF GHANA OF MAY 8, 1975 CONCERNING THE DECISION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA COUNCIL TO RENEGOTIATE THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT.

-- THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA ORGANIZATION TO ATTEND MEETINGS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE AND ALSO EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONFERENCE TO RENEGOTIATE THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT UNDER UNCTAD AUSPICES. DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO ACCRA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, NATHANIEL DAVIS, REAFFIRMED THIS UNITED STATES WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COCOA

AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

-- IN THE COURSE OF THESE COMING NEGOTIATIONS IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO REVIEW THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE COCOA MARKET OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS, INCLUDING PARTICULARLY THE ADVERSE EFFECTS RECENT WORLD MARKET COCOA PRICES HAVE HAD ON CONSUMPTION. THIS DEPARTMENT HAS NOTED THAT U.S. COCOA GRINDINGS IN 1974 WERE DOWN 18 PERCENT FROM 1973 AND THAT THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1975 SHOWED A FURTHER DECLINE OF 35 PERCENT FROM THE CORRESPONDING PERIOD IN 1974. A CONTINUATION OF THIS TREND WOULD HARDLY SERVE THE INTERESTS OF PRODUCERS OR OF THE CHOCOLATE INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES. NEEDLESS TO SAY, AN INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT WHICH MIGHT SEEK TO PERPETUATE PRICES LEADING TO A CONTINUED DECLINE IN CONSUMPTION WOULD SOON PROVE UNTENABLE AND SELF-DEFEATING.

-- THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARD MEMBERSHIP IN A NEW COCOA AGREEMENT WILL, OF COURSE, BE DEPENDENT ON THE NATURE AND TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT WHICH RESULTS FROM THE COMING NEGOTIATIONS. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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